

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A cartridge assembly for firearms or weapons, said cartridge assembly including:

a support body having a central longitudinal channel housing a plurality of projectiles in end-to-end orientation and having a plurality of chambers arranged around the central longitudinal channel, wherein each chamber houses at least one propellant charge and is located adjacent to a respective projectile, and wherein each chamber comprises a plurality of apertures connecting each chamber with the central longitudinal channel;

fluid communication means included in the support body for communicating the products of a gaseous expansion of said propellant from a respective chamber into said central longitudinal channel via a respective plurality of apertures of the respective chamber;

whereby, upon initiation of a selected propellant charge, the communicated products of gaseous expansion from a chamber force or eject a respective projectile from the cartridge assembly.

2. (Original) The cartridge assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid communication means is provided by a plurality of apertures included in said support body.

3. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 wherein the support body includes a tubular wall portion defining said central longitudinal channel.

4. (Original) The cartridge assembly of claim 3 wherein said plurality of apertures are provided in the tubular wall portion of said support body.

5. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 wherein a plurality of propellant charges and associated ignition means are disposed in each propellant chamber.

6. (Original) The cartridge assembly of claim 5 wherein one or more of said plurality of propellant charges may be initiated together or in a desired sequence, according to a desired muzzle velocity for the adjacent projectile.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 wherein the propellant charges are sealed or encased in their respective chambers.

9. (Original) The cartridge assembly of claim 8 wherein the propellant charges are sealed by providing obturation means for said plurality of apertures.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 wherein the support body has transverse annular walls forming ends of said chambers.

12. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 further including a cover arranged about the outer periphery of the support body to close off the radially outward opening of the chambers.

15. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 wherein the chambers are closed off by an outer wall integrally formed with the support body.

16. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 14 wherein the cylindrical cover or outer wall, is adapted to form, in respective use, a containment barrier to the products of gaseous expansion of propellant, whereby the only path of escape from a chamber is through said apertures in the tubular wall portion between the chamber and the central longitudinal channel.

17. (Previously Presented) A cartridge assembly including:  
a unitary support body, the support body having a central longitudinal channel housing two or more projectiles in abutting end to end orientation and having two or more chambers located adjacent a respective projectile;  
wherein each chamber houses a propellant charge and the support body further has two or more apertures for communicating the products of a gaseous expansion of said propellant from a respective chamber into said central longitudinal channel, wherein each chamber includes two or more apertures connecting the respective chamber to the central longitudinal channel; and

whereby, in use, the communicated products of gaseous expansion from a chamber via a respective two or more apertures of the chamber thus force a respective projectile from the cartridge assembly.

18. (Original) The cartridge assembly of claim 17 wherein the outer shape of the support body of the cartridge assembly is cylindrical.

19. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 17 wherein the support body has transverse annular walls forming ends of said chambers.

20. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 17 wherein a tubular wall portion of the support body which wall portion is otherwise a barrier between the inside of a chamber and the central longitudinal channel, suitably has said plurality of apertures therein.

21. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 18 further including a cylindrical cover arranged about the outer periphery of the substantially cylindrical support body to close off the radially outward opening of the chambers.

22. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 17 further including an outer wall, integrally formed with the support body, to close off the radially outward opening of the chambers.

23. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 21, wherein the cover or outer wall is adapted to form, in respective use, a containment barrier to the products of gaseous

expansion of propellant, whereby the only path of escape from the chamber is through said apertures in the tubular wall between the chamber and the central longitudinal channel.

24. – 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 wherein each chamber extends fully around the central longitudinal channel.

32. (Previously Presented) The cartridge assembly of claim 1 wherein the support body is unitary.